

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A processing server for allocating to user terminals resources of a local area network, said server adapted to be connected to at least one local area network access point, said server comprising:

control means adapted to

classify the terminals into a first group or a second group according to whether or not

they are adapted to establish an encrypted communication with said local area network

~~communications encrypted in accordance with at least one format; and~~

allocate resources of said local area network to terminals attempting to establish communication therewith as a function of whether they are classified in said first group or said second group.

2. (previously presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein said control means are adapted to determine a MAC address of each of said terminals attempting to establish communication with said local area network; and

said processing server further comprises means for allocating an IP address to each of said terminals attempting to establish communication with said local area network, and having the MAC address determined by said control means.

3. (previously presented) The server according to claim 2, wherein said allocation means are of the DHCP type.

4. (currently amended): The server according to claim 2, further comprising a memory for storing a table containing primary MAC addresses associated with first terminals of said terminals, said first terminals adapted to exchange data frames encrypted in accordance with said at least one format.

5. (previously presented) The server according to claim 4, wherein said table contains secondary MAC addresses associated with second terminals of said terminals, said second terminals adapted to exchange unencrypted data frames.

6. (previously presented) The server according to claim 5, wherein:
said control means are adapted to make a determination as to whether an extracted MAC address, extracted from a received frame, is one of said primary or secondary MAC addresses and,

if said determination is affirmative, to send the allocation means a request to allocate a primary IP address to the terminal corresponding to said extracted MAC address, so that said terminal can set up a link with at least one first remote network and one second remote network and,

if said determination is negative, to send the allocation means a request to allocate a secondary IP address to the terminal corresponding to said extracted MAC address, referred to as a third terminal, so that said third terminal can set up a connection with at least one second remote network.

7. (previously presented) The server according to claim 4, characterized in that said first terminals are associated with said first remote network.

8. (previously presented) The server according to claim 7, characterized in that said second terminals belong to known users of said first remote network.

9. (previously presented) The server according to claim 6, wherein:
each first remote network is selected from a group comprising private networks, IP data networks, and public switched telephone networks; and
each second remote network is selected from a group comprising IP data networks and public switched telephone networks.

10. (previously presented) The server according to claim 6, wherein said control means are adapted to allocate at least two priority levels for said allocation of resources of the local area network according to whether communications are encrypted in accordance with said at least one format.

11. (previously presented) The server according to claim 10, wherein the MAC addresses in said table are stored in corresponding relationship to at least one of said priority levels.

12. (previously presented) The server according to claim 11, wherein said priority levels comprise:

at least one first priority level allocated to first terminals associated with primary MAC addresses; and

one second priority level allocated to second terminals associated with secondary MAC addresses.

13. (previously presented) The server according to claim 12, wherein said control means are adapted to allocate a third priority level for allocation of resources of the local area network to said third terminals setting up communications not encrypted in accordance with said at least one format and whose MAC addresses are not in said table.

14. (previously presented) The server according to claim 11, wherein said priority levels apply at least to a bandwidth, and said bandwidth decreases from the first level to the third level.

15. (previously presented) The server according to claim 14, wherein said control means send said access point data representative of said bandwidth assigned to a designated terminal, and said access point allocates the corresponding resources to said designated terminal.

16. (previously presented) The server according to claim 10, wherein said control means are adapted to modify an allocated priority level as a function of the available resources of said local area network.

17. (previously presented) The server according to claim 1, said server adapted to be connected to said local area network by a cable connection.

18. (previously presented) The server according to claim 17, said cable connection being an Ethernet link.

19. (previously presented) The server according to claim 1, said server adapted to be connected to said local area network by a radio link.

20. (previously presented) The server according to claim 19, wherein said radio link is a 802.11b radio link.

21. (previously presented) A router, including a processing server according to claim 1.

22. (previously presented) A local area network access point, including a processing server according to claim 1.

23. (previously presented) A communication installation comprising:
at least one local area network accessible via at least one access point;
at least one first remote network;
at least one second remote network; and
a processing server according to claim 1, which is connected to said access point and said first and second remote networks.

24. (previously presented) An installation according to claim 23, wherein said local area network is a wireless local area network.

25. (previously presented) An installation according to claim 23, wherein said processing server is connected to said first remote network via a virtual private network.

26. (previously presented) An installation according to claim 23, wherein said processing server is connected to said first remote network via a remote access server.

27. (previously presented) An installation according to claim 23, wherein:

each said first remote network is chosen from a group comprising private networks, IP data networks, and public switched telephone networks ; and

each said second remote network is selected from a group comprising IP data networks and public switched telephone networks.

28. (currently amended): A method of allocating resources of a local area network to user terminals via at least one access point to said local area network, said method comprising:

in the case of an attempt at setting up a connection with said local area network by a terminal of said terminals, classifying said terminal in a first group or a second group according to whether or not said terminal establishes an encrypted connection with said local area network ~~is encrypted in accordance with at least one format~~; and

allocating resources of said local area network to said terminal as a function of whether it is classified in said first group or said second group.

29. (previously presented) The method according to claim 28, further comprising:

in the event of an attempt by said terminal to set up a connection with said local area network, determining a MAC address of said terminal, and allocating an IP address to said terminal.

30. (currently amended): The method according to claim 29, further comprising:

providing a table containing primary MAC addresses associated with first terminals of said terminals, said first terminals adapted to exchange data frames encrypted in accordance with said at least one format.

31. (previously presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein said table contains secondary MAC addresses associated with second terminals of said terminals, said second terminals adapted to exchange unencrypted data frames.

32. (previously presented) The method according to claim 31, further comprising: making a determination as to whether an extracted MAC address, extracted from a received frame, is one of said primary or secondary MAC addresses; and

if said determination is affirmative, allocating a primary IP address to the terminal corresponding to said extracted MAC address so that it can set up a connection with at least one first remote network and one second remote network; and

if said determination is negative, allocating a secondary IP address to the terminal corresponding to said extracted MAC address, referred to as a third terminal, so that said third terminal can set up a connection with a least one second remote network.

33. (previously presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein said first terminals are associated with said first remote network.

34. (previously presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein said second terminals belong to known users of said first remote network.

35. (previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein:
each first remote network is selected from a group comprising private networks, IP data networks, and public switched telephone networks; and
each second remote network is selected from a group comprising IP data networks and public switched telephone networks.

36. (previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein at least two levels of priority for allocation of resources of the local area network are allocated according to whether communications are encrypted in accordance with said at least one format.

37. (previously presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein the MAC addresses in said table are stored in corresponding relationship to at least one of said priority levels.

38. (previously presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein said priority levels comprise :

at least one first priority level allocated to first terminals associated with primary MAC addresses; and

at least one second priority level allocated to second terminals associated with secondary MAC addresses.

39. (previously presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein a third priority level for allocation of resources of the local area network is allocated to said third terminals setting up communications that are not encrypted in accordance with said at least one format and whose MAC addresses are not in said table.

40. (previously presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein said priority levels relate at least to a bandwidth, and said bandwidth decreases from the first level to the third level.

41. (previously presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein said access point is sent data representative of said bandwidth assigned to a designated terminal, and said access point allocates the corresponding resources to said designated terminal.

42. (previously presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein an allocated priority level is modified as a function of the available resources of said local area network.

43. (previously presented) The method according to claim 28, wherein said local area network is selected from the group comprising PSTN, PLMN, and Internet public networks, PABX private networks, and private communication gateways.

44. (previously presented) The method according to claim 43, wherein the PLMN public networks are mobile networks selected from the group comprising GSM, GPRS, and UMTS networks.